

2017 Indu Bhatt Memorial Lecture

# KHADI AND THE STORY OF HANDMADE

ELA BHATT

*Founder, Self-Employed Women's Association*

Ela Bhatt is one of the world's most remarkable pioneers and entrepreneurial forces in grassroots development. Known as the 'gentle revolutionary', she has dedicated her life to improving the lives of India's poorest and most oppressed women workers. In 1972 she founded the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a trade union for women workers in India's huge informal sector, who make up 94 per cent of the female labour force and yet have never enjoyed the same rights and security as those in formal employment. Today SEWA has more than 1.2 million members across nine Indian states.

A lawyer by training, Bhatt is a part of the international labour, cooperative, women, and micro-finance movements and has won several national and international awards, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1977), Right Livelihood Award (1984) and the Padma Bhushan (1986).

**5:00 pm, Monday, April 10**

Room 203, Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue

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